Embedding career education in the Victorian Curriculum F–10

English, Level 10

An existing learning activity linked to a particular learning area or capability in the Victorian Curriculum F–10 can be easily adapted to incorporate career education, enriching students’ career-related learning and skill development.

1. Identify an existing learning activity

**Curriculum area and levels:** English, Level 10

**Relevant content description:** Analyse and evaluate how people, cultures, places, events, objects and concepts are represented in texts, including media texts, through language, structural and/or visual choices ([VCELY466](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCELY466))

**Existing activity:** Responding to and analysing short texts, examining how choices are made in the content and structure of the text with the intention of presenting particular points of view and provoking particular emotions in viewers or readers.

**Summary of adaptation, change, addition:** Analysing an episode of a job-related ABC series or another text designed to explore an aspect of the world of work.

2. Adapt the learning activity to include a career education focus

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| Existing learning activity | Adaptations, changes or extensions that can be made |
| Teacher sets a persuasive or opinion text to be read and analysed by students. | Teacher ensures that the selected text includes a focus on the representation of occupation or employment in relation to credibility, authority and marginalisation. For example, ‘experts’ in many opinion or persuasive texts occupy particular high-status roles. Those who do not occupy high-status roles are often marginalised or disregarded. Similarly, the language of ‘experts’ is often more formal and credible than others, who might have their language replicated in articles to devalue the individual. This activity examines the ways in which representations of occupations and the workforce create a persuasive effect for the reader. |
| In addition to, or instead of, the above activity, teacher sets an issue to be explored through a number of texts, including non-print texts. This option allows for enrichment in both the English curriculum and career-related learning contexts. | Teacher selects the issue of affirmative action and challenges to assumptions we make about workforce engagement and explores this through documentaries such as the ABC’s ‘Employable Me’ or ‘If You Can See It You Can Be It’. Students explore the issues raised in these documentaries, source other texts on affirmative action and the workforce, and produce their own point of view pieces using this material.  |
| Students write a reflection on the issue. | Students write a reflection about occupations and identity, including ideas about changing culture, assumptions and beliefs about the workforce and workers. They could reflect on these ideas at personal level and explore how they might imagine changes to workplace culture and inequity. Teacher can encourage students to record some of their reflection in a career-planning tool such as an e-portfolio. |

Considerations when adapting the learning activity

* This activity also relates to: Evaluate the impact on audiences of different choices in the representation of still and moving images ([VCELA459](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Curriculum/ContentDescription/VCELA459))
* Teacher needs to be mindful of the rating and suitability of selected television episodes from any series. **It is important to preview ‘Employable Me’ before showing to the class because some episodes are rated M.**
* Teacher should prepare a list of suitable points for guided discussion about the content, values and presentation of work-related elements, or design a series of questions for written responses examining these areas.
* Teacher should design a reflection task that focuses on how the construction of the text informs the audience about the work presented.

Additional resources to help when adapting the learning activity

The following links to ABC programs are subject to change. Teacher should ensure that the episode of the series selected for viewing is available.

* ABC iVIEW, [Employable Me Australia](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/employable-me-australia)
* ABC TV Education, [If You Can See It You Can Be It](https://www.abc.net.au/tveducation/programs/if-you-see-it-you-can-be-it/12138328)

Benefits for students

Know yourself – self-development:

* Students consider the challenges that they and others may face, and understand the need to be adaptable, flexible and supportive in the workplace.
* Students reflect on the need to be self-aware about how they deal with workmates and with clients, and what skills and attitudes they might need to develop to most effectively participate in the workplace.
* Students consider workplace situations from the point of view of others.

Know your world – career exploration:

* Students reflect on workplace equity and accessibility issues.
* Students examine workplace scenarios and consider barriers to employment and to effective communication.

Manage your future – be proactive:

* Students draw on observations from the episodes to build on their understanding of the competitive job market and employers’ expectations. This insight can be used to inform their own decision-making with regard to future opportunities and planning.